

THE AGITATOR

"TRUTH CRUSHED TO THE EARTH WILL RISE AGAIN"

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COME TOGETHER!

Today, we - the Newark Community - face an awesome task. How do we go about "Motivating our children to learn and improving our schools" in the era of "Reaganism".

We know, despite the Reaganites declarations, that the economy has not recovered. The reality of the social and economic life of our community is continued decline with all the accompanying problems - unemployment, low wages, temporary employment, poor and inadequate housing, rising prices and costs, family problems, rampant crime, drug abuse, alcoholism, etc.

Military adventurism in Central America, Southern Africa and throught the world continues to escalate. Nuclear war hovers over us like the "Temple of Doom".

Black and, Latino youth, in particular, bear the brunt of this depression. While the vast majority of our youth recieve an inadequate education and live in squalid conditions, even the bright few face the future filled with fear and uncertainty.

POP believes that we, the working and poor people of Newark can unite and mobilize our energies, talents, skills and resources to turn our school system around. This is a most urgent task. Our future depends on it.

The people of this country have always used education as a weapon in their struggle to eliminate oppression and exploitation. The slaves learned to read and write at the risk of life and limb. The immigrants from around the world continually fight language and cultural bias to secure their democratic rights. The public school system was a product of the mass struggle for equality. The right to equal and quality education was one of the issues which opened some doors in the sixties.

Today, the Reaganites want to close those doors. The polarization between the rich and the poor has reached an unprecented porportion. Urban enterprize zones, downtown revitalization and gentrification will not alter the essence of this division. Rich neighborhoods full of townhouses will only supplant the split level and bedroom community as the American dream of the 80's and 90's. The elite schools planned for these rich neighborhoods will supplement the private schools. The dreams and needs of the vast majority of students will remain deterred.

All segments of the community must unite now to combat this dilemma, we must ensure that the vast majority recieve more than minimal basic skills. We must fight for quality education that encompasses all the political, cultural and social realities of modern life. The 1980's will demand more than computer literacy.

We must demand a new accountability from ourselves. All of us students, parents, teachers, administrators and Board members have a mutual and singular responsibility. We must stop pointing fingers at each other. United with this common bond we can transform our schools and motivate our children. In Newark, with an elected School Board we have a unique possibility. Let's sieze the time and move forward.

THE PEOPLE UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED!

PEOPLES' ORGANIZATION FOR PROGRESS

The Peoples' Organization for Progress meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 101 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey